

Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health

Minutes

11/8/2023

Vice-Chairperson Jones called meeting to order at 3 pm at Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Community Center, 302 So Front Street, Dowagiac MI 49047. Roll call taken. Board members present were: Jeremiah Jones, Don Hanson, Tina Leary, Mary Howie, Robert Linderman, Vicki Vaughn. Board members absent: Randall Peat

Employees Present: Danielle Persky, Nancy Desai, George Friday, Julie Beeching, Larry Wile, Anna Delarosa, and Tina Cox.

Others: Roger Boyer, Karen Tan and Joan Vidic

October meeting minutes were reviewed. Motioned by Howie, 2nd by Vaughn to approve the October meeting minutes as written. All voting yes, motion carried.

Each board member received a copy of the statement of revenues and expenditures for the month ending October 31, 2023 as well as a list of all expenditures paid in October. These reports were explained. Items highlighted were: BCBSM expenditures was listed twice; payment for October, other for November; payment to Borgess for lab work; payment to Summit Fire for Fire Extinguisher inspections listed twice (1 for each building) payment to Stericycle for shredding and payment to Region IV Area Agency on Aging. Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Leary to except the revenue/expenditures report as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Each board member received a copy of the health departments proposed short term disability (STD) insurance for employees that would be paid by the employer. Nancy stated a proposal was requested from 3 insurance companies and a cost comparison was attached. Requested board approval to enter into an agreement with Mutual of Omaha for the STD insurance. Nancy stated this is a common benefit amongst other municipalities. The plan chosen was discussed and reviewed. Motion by Linderman, 2nd by Howie to enter into agreement with Mutual of Omaha as presented. All voting yes, motion carried. Nancy also informed the board that an LTD (Long Term Disability) insurance will also be offered during open enrollment, this would be paid by the employee.

Nancy informed the board that currently the health department uses Clover to process its credit card charges (4.7%) and PayPal (3.7%) to process its online charges, which is not typical for government entities. Currently the health department absorbs these fees and the fiscal impact for the past 3 years was reviewed. A couple of companies (All Paid and Point & Pay) were looked into and their presentation and costs were reviewed. Nancy asked for board approval to enter into an agreement with All Paid for credit card processing services and pass the credit card processing fee to the customer. Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Leary to enter into an agreement with All Paid as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Nancy asked the board to enter into an agreement with MERS (Municipal Employee's Retirement System) to administer our Defined Contribution Plan and our 457 Plan. She stated we currently use Principal to administer these plans. She explained MERS is an independent retirement service company that was created to administer retirement plans for Michigan's local units of government on a Not-for-profit basis. The fiscal impact of changing to MERS was discussed and reviewed. She stated that currently there are several municipalities that use MERS and explained why switching would be a positive change for both the employer and employee. Would like this to be implemented January 2024. Discussed and reviewed. Nancy stated if the board agreed the motion needed to include that both Danielle and herself to be signors on the account. Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Leary to end our agreement with Principal and enter into an agreement with MERS to administered the Defined Contribution Plan and 457 Plans and authorizes both Danielle Persky, Health Officer and Nancy Desai, Finance Director to be signors on the account as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Administrator/Health Officer's Report: Each board member received a copy of the November Monthly Narrative Report. Items highlighted were; the proposed changes to the Environmental Health Code regarding groundwater use restricted zones is being reviewed by our attorney. Will be brought to the board for possible adoption at a later date.

Danielle invited the board to our annual holiday gathering. Scheduled for December 12th and will be held at the Strand Theatre in Paw Paw.

Each board member was given a copy of the proposed 2024 Employment Plan. She stated all changes are in red and asked the board to review this document for possible adoption at the December meeting.

Nursing Report: The written report and statistics were available for board review. Hanson questioned the delay in receiving the Moderna COVID vaccine. Julie stated we are not the only entity experiencing this delay therefore instead of waiting for the Moderna COVID vaccine it was decided to purchase the Pfizer COVID vaccine. However, if someone prefers to get the Moderna vaccine they are referred to area pharmacies that may have this vaccine. Vaughn asked if someone who has only received the Moderna vaccine is able to get the Pfizer vaccine and if there were side effects. Julie stated both vaccines have the new variant of COVID that is circulating now and either vaccine is ok. Julie explained these vaccines have gone commercial, vs governmental and are therefore more expensive and if not used need to be returned. If returned you are not given your total cost back, therefore we have decided to be more conservative in what we ordered and how much and Pfizer was able to deliver immediately. Vaughn asked if it is recommended to wait until the Moderna is available and was informed Pfizer is ok to use as long as there are no contraindications in the ingredients. Dr. Wile stated it is ok to get Pfizer if you had received Moderna previously and vice versa. Jones asked if there was any information available to get to people that have concerns about mixing the two vaccines, possible and reportable side effects. Dr. Wile replied that on the bottom of the memo (found in everyone's packet) he sent all employees regarding COVID there is a link to Frequently Asked Questions from Johns Hopkins. Howie asked about information pertaining to Myocarditis and Dr. Wile stated there are studies that indicate young men 12-19 of age have a slight risk of acquiring Myocarditis with the vaccine but the studies also indicate the risk is higher to this age group to get Myocarditis if they get COVID. Discussed and reviewed.

Dental, Environmental Health and Health Promotions stating there is nothing new to report that isn't already on the November narrative Danielle provided.

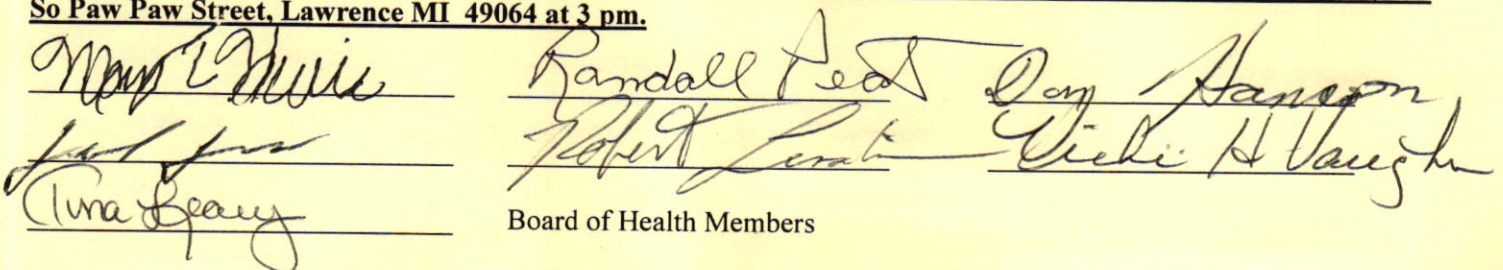
Other Business: Linderman questioned what the status was on various issues pertaining to the Lawrence building. Danielle stated working with John Faul, Van Buren County Administrator and Dave Mason, Van Buren ISD Director and that she would like to meet with Linderman to discuss. Linderman asked if anything had been decided regarding the meters at the Dowagiac facility in which Danielle stated she has not heard from Kevin Anderson, Dowagiac City Manager.

Dr. Wile informed everyone that Don Hanson has recently been recognized for his years of service at the annual Area Agency on Aging meeting.

Vaughn questioned the status of the lead issue in Dowagiac. George stated the health department doesn't have any jurisdiction on this since it involves Type I water supply. He stated the city water lines are fine, it's the water line from the road into some houses. As a result, filters were issued and now home owners are receiving education. Discussed and reviewed.

Public Comment: Karen Tan questioned newly released information regarding individuals having reactions from receiving COVID and the flu vaccine at same time. Asked if there were any recommendations. Dr. Wile stated there was one study that indicated if both vaccines were given together someone could get a stroke, however there are multiple other studies that didn't see this outcome. Unfortunately, the 1 negative study was the one picked up by the media and put on the internet. He further stated there has not been anything reported on the alert system (VARs-Vaccine Adverse Reaction Studies) indicating any adverse reactions if the vaccines are given at same time. Adverse reactions are reported from all over the country. Karen asked if adverse reactions are reported or listed on our website or where can she go to get this information. Dr. Wile recommended she check the link that was available at the bottom of his memo to employees. A copy of this memo was given to Karen.

Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Vaughn to adjourn. All voting yes, motion carried. The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled **Wednesday, December 13th at 3pm at the Van Buren ISD Conference Center, 490 So Paw Paw Street, Lawrence MI 49064 at 3 pm.**

The image shows five handwritten signatures in black ink, each written over a horizontal line. From left to right, the signatures are: Tina Gray, Julie, Mary E. Wile, Randall Peat, and Day Hanson. Below the signatures, the text 'Board of Health Members' is printed.

Board of Health Members